

**STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT**

# **Clarke Press Release**

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## **Clarke Trumpets Study that Confirms Connection to Violence and Violent Media Images**

**(Lansing- MI)** State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) is calling upon lawmakers today to pass his legislative package that prohibits the sale of violent, adult-rated video games to children. Sen. Clarke says that the importance of the legislation is underscored by a new study, released today by the University of Birmingham (England), that confirms a “substantial” connection between violent media images and violent behavior in children.

“Adult-rated games should only be sold to adults. Period,” said Sen. Clarke. “My legislation is needed to prevent excessively violent entertainment material, targeted toward children, from putting our families and communities at risk.”

As reported in today’s Guardian newspaper, the University of Birmingham study found consistent evidence that children who watch violent television or played violent video games show more aggressive play and behavior. This is especially true amongst boys. According to the study, the imagery has the same effect regardless of socio-economic status, intelligence, or parenting.

One of the researchers told the Guardian: "Carelessness with material that contains extreme violent and sexual imagery might even be regarded as a form of emotional maltreatment of the child."

“Creating safe schools and safe communities requires making smart decisions on what is in the best interest of our children,” said Sen. Clarke. “We can not expect adolescent boys to behave like adults but we can certainly demand that standard from the video gaming and retail industry.”

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